

Message Text

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ACTION PM-09

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ADP-00 SS-15 NSC-10 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 RSR-01 /057 W

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R 300745 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3807

INFO USDOD WASHDC

ISLAND COMMANDER DIEGO GARCIA

CNO WASHDC

CINCLANT

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT LOUIS 0407

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS OCLR MP

SUBJECT: MONTHLY DIEGO FFV FLIGHTS

REF: PORT LOUIS A-65, APRIL 4, 1972 (NOTAL)

1. AS DEPARTMENT AWARE, MONTHLY FRESH FRUIT AND VEGETABLE (FFV) FLIGHTS WERE INAUGURATED DIEGO- MAURITIUS- DIEGO OCTOBER, 1971, BOTH TO: (A) DEMONSTRATE MODEST SPIN- OFF BENEFIT HERE FROM CONSTRUCTION OF FACILITY, SINCE NO MAURIAN WORKERS EMPLOYED ON PROJECT (DESPITE REFERENCE THERETO IN 1966 US- UK AGREEMENT), AND (B) PROVIDE SOURCE SOME FRESH PRODUCE HELP IMPROVE DIET ISOLATED SEABEE CONTINGENT. SINCE THAN, TOTAL 17 FLIGHTS HAVE BEEN COMPLETED FOR TOTAL RUPEE EXPENDITURES IN MAURITIUS OF 502,336, AN AVERAGE OF RS. 29,549 PER FLIGHT (DOLLAR CURRENTLY EQUALS RS. 5.32).

2. WE BELIVE EXERCISE HAS BEEN USEFUL IN GETTING US OVER DIFFICULTY RAISED BY LANGUAGE US- UK AGREEMENT. AT SAME TIME, OPERATION

HAS NOT DEVELOPED BEYOND MINIMAL LEVEL AND AVERAGE FOR LAST THREE FLIGHTS OF RS.20,700 SUGGESTS FUTURE TREND MAY BE DOWNWARD. MOREOVER C-141 AIRCRAFT HAS NOW BEEN SUBSTITUTED FOR FORMER

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C-130 WITHOUT RON RPT RON. THIS COMPLICATES PROBLEM GETTING FFV

ITEMS TO AIRPORT, SINCE WEATHER CONDITIONS AND OCCASIONAL AIRCRAFT DELAYS HAVE MADE IT ADVISABLE POSTPONE PICKING AND PACKAGING ITEMS UNTIL AIRCRAFT ACTUALLY EN ROUTE. ADDITIONALLY LOCAL VEGETABLES NOW IN SOMEWHAT SHORT SUPPLY LOCALLY, MOREOVER, TOTAL NUMBER RESIDENTS DIEGO MAY WELL DECLINE NEXT YEAR WHICH WOULD PRESUMABLY REDUCE AND/ OR ELIMINATE FFV FLIGHTS THEN.

3. FOR ALL FOREGOING REASONS WE CONCLUDE THAT, FROM STANDPOINT USG/ GOM RELATIONS, FFV FLIGHTS NEED NOT FURTHER BE CONTINUED. HOWEVER, WE SEE NO RPT NO OBJECTION THEIR CONTINUANCE IF THIS WOULD BE OF FURTHER HELP DIEGO OPERATIONS. SINCE NEXT FLIGHT NORMALLY EXPECTED APPROXIMATELY MAY 10, WOULD APPRECIATE DEPT/ DOD GUIDANCE AS TO FUTURE THESE FLIGHTS IN LIGHT FOREGOING.
BREWER

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*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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